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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,825	02/19/2002	Wolfgang M. Franz	0690-0115P	6306

2292 7590 04/09/2003

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EXAMINER

LI, QIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/049,825

Applicant(s)

FRANZ, WOLFGANG M.

Examiner

Q. Janice Li

Art Unit

1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

Group I. Claims 1-17, and 30, drawn to an expression cassette, and a method of using such for genetic alteration of pluripotent cells of a mammal.

Group II. Claims 18-29, and 31, drawn to a method of producing *in vitro* differentiated somatic cells of a mammal and cells produced by the method.

2. The invention listed as groups II and I do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Groups I and II are drawn to different products, and a method of making and/or using the product.

Specifically, group I is drawn to an expression cassette, and a method of using the expression cassette; and group II is drawn to a method of making *in vitro* differentiated somatic cells, and using such cells for transplantation. The somatic cells and the method of making and using such in the invention group II are not required in the invention group I.

37 CFR 1.475 (b) states "AN INTERNATIONAL OR A NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION CONTAINING CLAIMS TO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF INVENTION WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE UNITY OF INVENTION IF THE CLAIMS ARE DRAWN **ONLY TO ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING

COMBINATIONS OF CATEGORIES: (1) A PRODUCT AND A PROCESS SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR THE

MANUFACTURE OF SAID PRODUCT; OR (2) A PRODUCT AND A PROCESS OF USE OF SAID PRODUCT; OR (3) A PRODUCT, A PROCESS SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE SAID PRODUCT, AND A USE OF THE SAID PRODUCT; OR (4) A PROCESS AND AN APPARATUS OR MEANS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CARRYING OUT THE SAID PROCESS; OR (5) A PRODUCT, A PROCESS SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE SAID PRODUCT, AND AN APPARATUS OR MEANS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CARRYING OUT THE SAID PROCESS." Since multiple products/processes are claimed, unity of invention is lacking and restriction is required. The differences in the special technical features of the Inventions I-II are further underscored by their divergent classification and independent search criteria.

The expression cassette of group I and the process of producing a differentiated somatic cells may be linked to a special technical feature as a method of using the cassette. However, the cassette could be used in a different manner such as administering in a mammal, and genetically altering other cells.

Further, as cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report, Claims of Group I are anticipated or obvious over WO 9919469 A, whereas claims of group II are anticipated or obvious over Wobus et al. Consequently, the special technical feature of group II is not so linked with group I that they provide a contribution as a whole, makes over the prior art, so unity of invention is lacking. Applicants are advised to see 37 CFR 1.475 (a)-(d) for details.

3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is advised that where a single claim encompasses more than one invention as defined above, upon election of an invention for examination, said claim would only be examined to the extent that it reads upon the elected invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Q. Janice Li whose telephone number is 703-308-7942. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah J. Reynolds can be reached on 703-305-4051. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of formal matters can be directed to the patent analyst, Dianiece Jacobs, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3388.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. Janice Li', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Q. Janice Li
Examiner
Art Unit 1632

QJL
April 7, 2003